

Appl. No.: 10/692,572
Attorney Docket No.: 10541-1894
Amendment in reply to Office Action of April 11, 2006

II. Listing of the Claims

1. (Currently Amended): A modular airbag door assembly comprising:
an airbag chute having a front side and a rear side and defining an opening
extending therethrough;

a door panel pivotally mounted to said front side of said airbag chute and
covering said opening;

said airbag door assembly further including a plurality of ~~weld~~ studs extending
from said rear side of said airbag chute, said ~~weld~~ studs adapted to allow said airbag
door assembly to be mounted to a substrate with said rear side of said chute being
positioned ~~against~~ toward a front side of the substrate; and

a seal extending over ends of both an outer periphery of said airbag chute and
an outer periphery of said door panel to seal said outer periphery of said airbag chute
and said outer periphery of said door panel.

2. Canceled.

3. (Currently Amended): The modular airbag door assembly of claim
[[2]] 1 wherein said seal comprises ~~a piece of tape affixed to and extending around~~ over
said outer periphery of said airbag chute and said door panel.

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4. (Original): The modular airbag door assembly of claim 1 further including a seal mounted to said rear side of said airbag chute to provide a seal between said rear side of said airbag chute and a front side of a substrate to which the modular airbag door assembly is to be mounted.

5. (Currently Amended): An instrument panel for an automobile passenger compartment comprising:

a substrate having an outer surface and an inner surface and defining an opening extending therethrough;

a modular airbag door assembly mounted to said outer surface of said substrate, said modular airbag door assembly including an airbag chute having a front side and a rear side and defining an opening extending therethrough and a door panel pivotally mounted to said front side of said airbag chute and covering said opening mounted to said substrate to secure said airbag door assembly onto said outer surface of said substrate; [[and]]

an airbag device mounted to said ~~modular airbag door assembly adjacent said inner surface of said substrate.~~ portions of said airbag chute that extend through said opening; and

a seal extending over both an outer periphery of said airbag chute and an outer periphery of said door panel to seal together between said outer periphery of said airbag chute and said outer periphery of said door panel.

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6. Canceled.

7. Canceled.

8. (Currently Amended): The instrument panel of claim ~~[[7]]~~ 6 wherein said seal comprises a piece of tape affixed to and extending around over said outer periphery of said airbag chute and said door panel.

9. (Original): The instrument panel of claim 6 further including a seal positioned between said outer surface of said substrate and said rear side of said airbag chute.

10. (Original): The instrument panel of claim 6 wherein said door panel is formed from metal and said substrate is formed of plastic.

11. (Original): The instrument panel of claim 10 wherein said door panel has stiffening ribs formed therein.

12. (Original): The instrument panel of claim 6 wherein said door panel includes a top flap portion that is secured to said front side of said airbag chute.

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13. (Original): The instrument panel of claim 6 further including a skin covering extending over said substrate.

14. (Original): The instrument panel of claim 13 wherein said skin covering includes a pre-weakened pattern outlining an outer periphery of said door panel, said pre-weakened pattern providing a break point to allow a controlled portion of said skin covering immediately over said modular airbag door assembly to break away upon deployment of said air bag device, said skin providing no external indicia of the air bag device located beneath.

15. (Original): The instrument panel of claim 13 further including foam positioned between said skin covering and said substrate.

16. (Original): The instrument panel of claim 15 wherein said substrate includes an outwardly extending ridge formed around portions of said opening within said substrate to provide a tear initiator for said foam during deployment of said airbag device.

17 – 20. Cancelled.

21. (New): An instrument panel for an automobile passenger compartment comprising:

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a substrate having an outer surface and an inner surface and defining an opening extending therethrough;

a modular airbag door assembly mounted to said outer surface of said substrate, said modular airbag door assembly including an airbag chute having a front side and a rear side and defining an opening extending therethrough and a door panel pivotally mounted to said front side of said airbag chute and covering said opening mounted to said substrate to secure said airbag door assembly onto said outer surface of said substrate;

an airbag device mounted to said portions of said airbag chute that extend through said opening; and

a seal positioned between said outer surface of said substrate and said rear side of said airbag chute.